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THE PETITION OF THE East-India Company.

East Indies

To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes, aſſembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of the Governor and Company of Merchants of London, *Trading to the* East-Indies, *in a General Court aſſembled.*

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners and their Predeceſſors, upon the Encouragement of Queen *Elizabeth* and ſucceeding Princes, by their ſeveral Royal Grants and Charters, granted unto them excluſive, to all others have adventured their Eſtates, for the diſcovering and carrying on a Traffick to thoſe remote Parts; greatly to the Advantage of the Navigation of this Kingdom, and to the Enriching of the ſame, as well by what imported by them, as by the Exportation again of ſuch Commodities, for the carrying on a Foreign Trade to the Plantations, *Spain*, *Italy*, *Turkey*, &c. And that your Petitioners have been informed, and did always believe, that according to the Ancient Uſage of their Predeceſſors, they might legally manage their Trade, and Eſtabliſh and Govern the Colonies, Forts, and Gariſons of their Propriety, within the Limits of their Charters, by Virtue of, and in conformity to, the ſeveral Grants and Charters from the Crown to them and their Predeceſſors, from the firſt Eſtabliſhment of the ſaid Trade; and that ſeveral Parliaments ſince that time, have had many occaſions to take notice of their ſaid Charters, without any Diſallowance thereunto, but on the contrary, rather implicitely approv'd thereof: But your Petitioners have lately received great damages and diſcouragements in their ſaid Trade, by ſeveral private Traders or Interlopers, who Originally were the Cauſe of all thoſe Troubles and Loſſes brought of late on the ſaid Company.

Your

Your Petitioners do therefore humbly repreſent to this Honourable Houſe, That the *Eaſt-India* Trade cannot poſſibly be ſupported, but in a Joint-Stock, excluſive to all others, nor without ſuch Powers granted unto them, equal to that of their Neighbours; by which they uphold their Trade, and that while Matters ſtands thus; the ſaid *Eaſt-India* Trade, and ſuch other Foreign Trades from *England* as depends thereon, will not only ſuffer much; but other *European* Nations will make great Advantage thereof, to the Hazard, if not the utter Ruine and Loſs of the *Engliſh* Commerce to thoſe Parts.

Your Petitioners do therefore moſt humbly pray this Honourable Houſe will be pleaſed to take the Premiſſes into their moſt prudent conſiderations, and to apply ſuch ſeaſonable Remedies for the Preſervation of this great and important Trade to the Engliſh *Nation; and on which ſo many other Foreign Trades in a great Meaſure depend, as to ſettle the ſame by Act of Parliament, under ſuch Methods or Regulations as this Honourable Houſe ſhall think fit, unto which your Petitioners ſhall at all times moſt humbly ſubmit: And that in the mean time your Petitioners may be ſupported and encouraged in preſerving the ſaid Trade to the Nation in ſuch manner, and by ſuch means, as this Honourable Houſe in their great Wiſdom ſhall think requiſite.*

And your Petitioners, ſhall ever pray, &c.

JOSEPH HERNE,

Governor.

LONDON,

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